

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

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DIGEST OF CURRENT ECONOMIC STATISTICS, AUSTRALIA DECEMBER 1978

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr David Shellshear on Canberra 526627, or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The Digest contains the latest available figures at the time of issue for a selection of monthly and quarterly series. Where possible, series are shown both in their original and seasonally adjusted form.

Seasonal adjustment

Measures of variability and details of the methods used in seasonally adjusting Bureau statistics are given in Appendices D and C, respectively, of *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators* (1308.0). This annual publication also contains historical original and seasonally adjusted data in tabular and graphical form of a selection of the statistics appearing in the Bureau's monthly and quarterly publications.

As well as being adjusted for normal seasonal factors, some of the statistical series included in the Digest have been adjusted for the effects of calendar variations, namely, "trading-day" effects (arising from the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, etc. in a month) and the influence of movable holidays, e.g. Easter and Australia Day.

Most of the original and seasonally adjusted series are subject to revision.

Related publications

More detailed information is available in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* (1304.0). Publications from which the series in the Digest are derived are listed in *Index*.

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- t — figure or series revised since previous issue
- n.a. — not available,
- n.y.a. — not yet available.
- (where a line is drawn across a column between two consecutive figures) break in continuity of series

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

PRODUCTION

Month	Black coal '000 tonnes		Iron ore (a) '000 tonnes		Lead (b) '000 tonnes		Electricity mil. kWh		Gas (c) mil. megajoules		Raw steel '000 tonnes		Cement '000 tonnes		Motor vehicles (d) '000		Electric motors under 720 W '000	
	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Original	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.
1977-78 – November	7,533	6,546	24,285	41.1	6,692	7,093	19,353	20,783	557	567	472	440	40.5	35.9	255	205		
	5,329	6,367		28.9	6,715	7,231	18,255	21,399	594	578	413	423	29.4	34.5	199	216		
	4,721	7,062		22.6	6,544	7,289	17,044	21,570	669	654	278	412	13.1	38.5	87	178		
	6,704	6,541	20,257	31.7	6,420	7,262	18,049	21,745	603	651	421	435	34.7	35.3	195	213		
	6,101	7,000		33.7	7,098	7,423	19,941	21,862	675	651	423	423	37.2	35.3	201	197		
	6,596	6,561		28.8	6,866	7,315	20,603	2,103	573	617	421	412	33.0	34.4	163	181		
1978-79	8,249	6,53	19,257	32.2	7,676	7,275	23,417	21,182	706	670	432	411	39.0	32.6	169	165		
	6,116	10		36.1	8,070	7,355	25,888	22,385	694	731	408	403	34.8	32.6	204	199		
	6,167	5		35.2	8,555	7,484	27,472	22,598	628	633	397	373	38.1	37.5	232	225		
	6,998	5,90	21,692	40.6	8,410	7,482	26,776	22,145	551	548	438	423	31.0	27.6	237	201		
	6,910	1,842		36.7	7,518	7,336	22,886	21,231	593	586	477	458	37.3	33.9	279	249		
	7,884	1,962		35.6	7,385	7,384	22,622	21,724	660	617	436	411	40.8	35.6	250	220		
November	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	7,113	7,540	22,404	24,239	597	617	455	426	42.1	36.4	272	218		
	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	6,878	7,478	19,697	23,183	641	636	407	416	32.0	38.9	228	250		

(a) Gross mine output. (b) Metallic contents of mine products. (c) Available for issue through mains; includes natural gas. (d) Includes vehicles which are disposed of by the manufacturer in a partly finished state.

PRODUCTION – continued

Month	Cotton woven cloth (excl. towelling) '000 sq m		Woollen and worsted woven cloth (excl. blanketing) '000 sq m		Man-made fibre-cloth '000 sq m		Meat '000 tonnes		Price Index Manufacturing Division (a)		Whole milk production all purposes mil. litres		Brokers and Dealers receipts of taxable wool		Stocks (c)	
	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Total receipts tonnes	% of total received by brokers (b)	Original	Seas. adj.
1977-78 – November	3,311	3,089	730	563	12,348	258	255	211.6	676	431	85,887	77.8	19,060	19,138		
	2,856	2,220	496	567	8,911	213	257	212.4	605	419	49,175	73.0				
	1,257	3,154	295	571	3,826	217	248	213.8	478	387	26,687	76.4				
	3,070	3,094	568	510	9,748	219	233	215.6	420	464	32,604	74.4			19,316	19,295
	3,125	2,946	648	563	9,802	242	242	217.1	372	450	38,432	68.8				
	2,847	3,219	590	616	9,198	214	220	218.8	278	444	29,749	69.1			19,673	19,692
1978-79 – July	3,165	2,936	569	514	10,454	251	231	220.0	236	445	29,591	68.8				
	3,546	3,102	572	655	11,790	229	215	221.6	224	457	20,873	62.2				
	3,992	3,899	592	631	10,989	218	211	223.3	295	461	28,849	71.1				
	3,762	3,388	696	636	11,370	234	223	224.3	447	471	72,992	76.1			20,110	20,036
	4,314	3,534	645	640	10,747	233	229	227.0	587	474	88,205	76.5				
	13,898	3,581	795	727	12,223	259	247	229.7	751	482	107,510	78.0			n.y.a.	n.y.a.
November	13,655	3,418	792	638	11,795	258	253	231.5	730	471	90,894	75.9				
	2,777	3,111	615	715	8,738	208	241	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.				

(a) This index is on a 'net division' basis and relates in concept only to articles which are produced in the Manufacturing Division of ASIC (Division C) for sale or transfer outside the Division or for use as capital equipment. (b) Members of the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia. (c) Owned by private enterprises. See publication 5630.0.

WAGES, FACTORY OVERTIME AND RETAIL PRICES

Month	Average weekly earnings per employed male unit \$		Weekly wage rates index, adult males (c) 1954 = 100	Factory overtime (h) at larger private factories hours		Consumer price index, six capitals, 1966-67 = 100.0 unless otherwise noted (a)									
						All groups		Food (d)		Clothing		Housing		Household equipment and operation	
	Original	Seas. adj.		Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original
1977-78 - November	212.50	205.00	520.2	2.7	2.5	239.6	222.2	256.5	273.2	211.7	239.2	239.2	311.0	311.0	112.6
December			527.9	2.6	2.5		221.7								
January			527.9	2.1	2.6		222.6								
February	205.10	213.00	535.8	2.4	2.3	242.7	223.6		259.3	276.9	213.8	243.0	241.9	317.8	114.9
March			535.8	2.3	2.1		224.4								
April			535.7	2.3	2.4		227.7								
May	216.30	215.80	535.7	2.4	2.3	247.7	229.0	265.6	281.7	218.3	245.9	242.8	337.3	116.0	
June			542.5	2.5	2.6		229.0								
1978-79 - July			542.5	2.5	2.6		234.9								
August	218.90	220.40	542.6	2.4	2.5	252.5	236.0	269.0	285.2	221.1	251.2	245.3	350.2	117.6	
September			546.0	2.7	2.7		238.8								
October			546.1	2.8	2.7		242.6								
November	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	2.7	2.5	258.2	244.0	274.8	290.5	224.2	259.7	287.5	281.9	119.5	
December			n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.		245.3								

(a) The composition of the groups and the group structure of the index has been altered with the introduction, from December quarter 1976, of the ninth Consumer Price Index series. (b) Source : Department of Employment and Industrial Relations. Average hours worked in survey week. (c) Weighted average excludes rural. (d) Quarterly series may be derived by averaging the three monthly figures. However, in some cases quarterly index numbers so derived differ slightly from the quarterly figure as published in *Consumer Price Index* bulletins due to rounding. (e) Base December quarter 1968 = 100.0. (f) Base September quarter 1976 = 100.0.

BUILDING, ETC.

Month	Building approvals \$m		Building approvals dwellings '000 units	Government building approved \$m	Building commenced total \$m		Dwellings commenced '000 units		Price indexes (a)				New capital expenditure by private enterprises			
									Materials used in building other than house building	Buildings and structures \$m	Other capital equipment \$m	Original	Original	Original	Original	
	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Original	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original
1977-78 - November	554.2	528.4	11.4	10.6	126.5	1,483.0	1,594.5	27.6	29.3	249.8	247.7	554.3	498.4	1,257.1	1,174.1	
December	493.0	535.4	9.9	10.8	129.0					251.0	249.4					
January	407.2	512.0	7.8	10.2	101.2					251.9	250.7					
February	434.9	495.1	8.7	9.8	88.1					253.7	251.8	397.8	478.3	1,107.1	1,259.3	
March	500.2	535.3	10.1	10.2	110.7					255.1	252.9					
April	518.9	513.6	10.0	10.0	129.9					256.7	254.6					
May	562.3	482.9	11.1	9.7	113.7					257.6	255.7	517.1	497.2	1,541.2	1,454.5	
June	585.5	504.7	11.0	9.9	170.9					258.5	257.8					
1978-79 - July	468.6	451.8	9.4	9.3	81.3					259.0	258.5					
August	573.1	589.9	10.4	9.9	120.1					260.2	259.4	516.8	508.3	1,456.3	1,470.3	
September	522.8	522.8	9.9	9.9	72.1					260.9	259.9					
October	582.5	545.4	11.1	10.6	105.7					262.0	260.9					
November	580.2	553.8	11.4	10.6	108.9					263.0	262.5					
December	460.1	516.1	9.9	11.1	70.6					264.6	264.4					

(a) Weighted average six State capital cities. 1966-67 = 100.0.

FINANCE

Month	Finance companies balances outstanding												Housing finance for owner occupation - value of loans approved (d)		Commonwealth bond yield short dated (f) per cent	Listed companies new money raised \$m	Taxation revenue Commonwealth and State consolidated revenue funds \$m
	Savings banks - Depositors' Balances (a) \$m				Major Trading Banks (b)				Permanent building societies \$m								
	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original
1977-78 – October	17,082	16,874	17,429	17,591	12,926	12,851	15,714	241	137	100	9.42		1,534	1,982			
November	17,103	16,979	17,728	17,794	12,964	13,085	16,003	308	147	100	9.27	416.2	2,195	2,067			
December	17,248	17,171	17,860	17,549	12,970	13,153	16,329	210	129	83	9.26		1,608	2,015			
January	17,380	17,341	18,056	17,452	12,857	12,920	16,340	245	122	73	8.99		1,877	2,105			
February	17,543	17,516	18,342	17,590	12,869	13,193	16,399	272	136	86	8.83	223.7	2,071	2,093			
March	17,453	17,528	18,745	17,846	13,159	13,443	16,533	292	134	83	8.83		1,980	2,119			
April	17,409	17,681	18,620	18,147	13,463	13,340	16,668	250	129	93	8.83		3,030	2,127			
May	17,650	17,934	17,890	18,061	13,757	13,573	17,037	307	150	95	8.82	389.6	3,672	1,982			
June	18,046	18,065	17,593	18,296	13,626	13,485	17,066	253	140	83	8.83		2,321	2,007			
1978-79 – July	18,222	18,268	17,636	18,431	13,685	13,533	17,296	256	149	80	8.83		1,648	2,131			
August	18,381	18,358	18,255	18,870	13,962	13,962	17,299	303	170	89	8.79	396.9	2,113	2,066			
September	18,537	18,388	18,600	19,166	14,116	14,184	17,549	290	164	80	8.79		1,633	2,161			
October	18,636	18,397	18,952	19,176	14,516	14,278	n.y.a.	300	177	93	8.69		1,658	1,958			
November	18,677	18,541	19,232	19,189	14,488	14,426	n.y.a.	342	195	105	8.66	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.			
December	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	19,601	19,334	14,683	14,680	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.

(a) Excludes external territories. (b) Includes external territories. (c) Amounts shown relate to all types of finance agreements and provide a broad overall measure of finance company activity. For further details see the monthly publication *Finance Companies* (5614.0). (d) Includes loans for alterations and additions. (e) Includes Terminating Building Societies, Finance companies, Credit Unions, Insurance companies and Government Instrumentalities. (f) This series was previously based on rebate bonds which were issued prior to 1 November 1968. Income on these bonds was subject to income tax at current rates less a rebate of 10 cents in each dollar of Australian Government loan interest included in taxable income. The series is now based on non-rebate bonds.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

Quarter	Final consumption expenditure												Gross fixed capital expenditure				
	Gross domestic product		Gross farm product		Gross non-farm product		Private		Government		Private		Public				
	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	
AT CURRENT PRICES																	
1976-77 - June	20,561	21,369	517	1,121	20,044	20,248	12,462	12,493	3,567	3,443	3,155	3,020	2,184	1,897			
1977-78 - September	21,934	21,938	924	1,003	21,010	20,935	12,744	12,869	3,548	3,600	3,154	3,144	1,706	1,854			
December	24,061	22,129	1,646	1,016	22,415	21,113	13,966	13,210	3,852	3,688	3,352	3,198	2,007	1,890			
March	21,631	22,907	887	997	20,744	21,910	12,953	13,555	3,633	3,887	2,927	3,241	1,758	2,017			
June	22,601	23,388	597	1,032	22,004	22,356	14,007	14,040	4,069	3,920	3,637	3,468	2,239	1,945			
1978-79 - September	23,937	24,249	972	1,326	22,965	22,923	14,363	14,499	3,988	4,046	3,497	3,497	1,807	1,964			
AT AVERAGE 1974-75 PRICES																	
1976-77 - June	15,325	16,173	403	990	14,922	15,183	9,321	9,312	2,708	2,602	2,316	2,215	1,617	1,399			
1977-78 - September	16,445	16,389	807	936	15,638	15,453	9,343	9,424	2,633	2,665	2,271	2,261	1,242	1,354			
December	18,053	16,339	1,709	930	16,344	15,409	10,017	9,519	2,793	2,715	2,373	2,273	1,438	1,355			
March	15,493	16,483	790	925	14,703	15,558	9,138	9,564	2,633	2,792	2,040	2,253	1,238	1,425			
June	15,802	16,652	388	918	15,414	15,734	9,702	9,690	2,894	2,782	2,489	2,373	1,564	1,352			
1978-79 - September	16,592	16,799	709	1,078	15,883	15,721	9,730	9,811	2,791	2,825	2,361	2,356	1,249	1,362			
AT CURRENT PRICES - continued																	
Imports of goods and services																	
		Exports of goods and services		\$m		\$m		Companies		Other		Wages, salaries and supplements		Income of farm unincorporated enterprises		Other household income	
		Original		Seas. adj.		Original		Original		Original		\$m		\$m		Less direct taxes, etc.	
		Original		Seas. adj.		Original		Original		Original		\$m		Original		Household disposable income	
		Original		Seas. adj.		Original		Original		Original		Original		Original		Original	
1976-77 - June	3,575	3,597	3,360	3,352	2,486	2,475	3,528	4,455	11,903	11,917	26	17,925	5,138	12,814			
1977-78 - September	3,640	3,508	3,440	3,446	2,608	2,606	4,651	4,519	12,215	12,254	418	18,041	2,789	15,670			
December	3,362	3,398	3,624	3,544	3,038	2,606	5,676	4,656	12,876	12,336	1,095	19,209	2,922	17,381			
March	3,615	3,696	3,277	3,363	2,328	2,797	4,452	4,809	12,246	12,743	418	18,119	3,439	15,098			
June	3,801	3,823	3,569	3,558	2,736	2,725	4,168	5,020	12,792	12,871	111	19,737	5,185	14,663			
1978-79 - September	3,989	3,844	3,549	3,553	2,902	2,903	5,242	5,365	13,054	13,139	481	19,597	2,787	17,290			

(a) Direct taxes deducted are those paid or payable by persons to general government. These include income tax paid and estate and gift duties, all other direct taxes, fees for service of a regulatory character and fines and gifts paid. Also deducted here are consumer debt interest and transfers to overseas.

CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE (a) ('000)

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS ('000)

JOB VACANCIES ('000)

Month	Males		Females		Persons		Labour Force Survey (c)			Registered with CES (d) (for full- time work)	Unemploy- ment benefit recipients (e)		
	Original	Seas. adj. (b)	Original	Seas. adj. (b)	Original	Seas. adj. (b)	Looking for full- time work	Looking for part- time work	Total		Survey estimates (f)	Registered with CES (d)	
1977-78 - November	4,050.4	4,061.0	2,291.9	2,283.8	6,342.2	6,343.7	277.4	69.4	346.8	357.0	238.3	36.4	20.3
December										404.1	256.2		20.0
January										445.3	269.9		24.9
February	4,112.4	4,086.0	2,296.9	2,285.9	6,409.3	6,368.7	395.8	81.3	477.0	431.3	298.5	36.0	22.3
March	4,087.6		2,320.5		6,408.1		345.7	74.6	420.3	410.0	280.2	36.3	19.5
April	4,078.5		2,326.4		6,404.9		333.5	67.6	401.1	402.5	283.3		18.6
May	4,072.6	4,064.3	2,321.4	2,321.7	6,394.0	6,386.4	331.6	63.7	395.3	392.2	272.4	32.2	17.9
June	4,076.7		2,307.5		6,384.2		330.5	61.8	392.3	393.8	286.1		17.2
1978-79 - July	4,059.3		2,316.8		6,376.1		325.4	52.6	378.0	393.4	290.7		18.3
August	4,053.8	4,077.7	2,311.5	2,329.5	6,365.3	6,410.8	332.6	63.1	395.7	388.6	285.4	n.a.	18.1
September	4,059.0		2,310.5		6,369.6		324.8	59.7	384.5	382.7	284.6		19.2
October	4,062.7		2,311.5		6,374.1		305.9	61.6	367.5	380.2	279.9		20.7
November	4,052.4	4,063.2	2,314.6	2,307.4	6,367.0	6,369.5	308.8	60.9	369.7	399.2	278.8	n.a.	19.3
December	4,165.3		2,373.3		6,538.7		873.8	67.4	441.2	451.5	311.3		18.0

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. The labour force is the sum of the employed and the unemployed. (b) Seasonally adjusted estimates available only for February, May, August and November. (c) Suspension of seasonally adjusted figures in this series is explained in *The Labour Force, November 1977* (6203.0). (d) Registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service at Friday nearest the end of the month. (e) For reference dates see *The Labour Force* (6203.0). (f) Results of sample surveys of government employers and private payroll taxpayers conducted by the ABS as at the last Friday of the month shown. For further notes relating to these estimates see b Vacancies, May 1978 (6231.0). As part of the measures necessary to bring the activities of the ABS within the resources available to it, the surveys of job vacancies have been terminated as from May 1978.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES (a) (b)

Month	Total civilian employees '000						Private/Government '000 persons ^c				Principal industries '000 persons			
	Males		Females		Persons		Private		Government		Manufacturing		Wholesale and Retail Trade	
	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.	Original	Seas. adj.
1977-78 - October (c)	2,954.4	2,960.9	1,762.5	1,756.6	4,716.9	4,717.5	3,241.9	3,239.2	1,475.0	1,478.3	1,142.8	1,141.0	967.6	966.0
November	2,959.6	2,963.4	1,770.1	1,760.1	4,729.7	4,723.5	3,251.9	3,240.6	1,477.8	1,482.9	1,144.2	1,141.7	974.4	966.8
December	2,960.3	2,966.3	1,763.5	1,769.3	4,723.7	4,735.6	3,251.9	3,248.1	1,471.8	1,487.5	1,136.3	1,140.7	980.1	970.5
January	2,954.6	2,966.2	1,748.0	1,773.5	4,702.6	4,739.7	3,226.1	3,245.9	1,476.5	1,493.8	1,132.7	1,139.5	964.3	970.1
February	2,962.6	2,961.9	1,761.9	1,766.7	4,724.6	4,728.6	3,233.7	3,238.0	1,490.8	1,490.6	1,138.6	1,137.3	964.7	969.2
March	2,959.6	2,952.4	1,764.3	1,760.6	4,724.0	4,713.0	3,229.5	3,223.7	1,494.4	1,489.3	1,135.6	1,131.0	963.5	965.0
April	2,956.0	2,948.9	1,767.1	1,761.5	4,723.1	4,710.4	3,225.2	3,218.8	1,497.9	1,491.6	1,130.9	1,128.2	964.0	963.3
May	2,951.9	2,940.3	1,768.0	1,763.7	4,719.9	4,704.0	3,221.4	3,214.3	1,498.5	1,489.7	1,127.7	1,125.9	964.2	962.7
June (c)	2,943.8	2,933.9	1,769.6	1,766.9	4,713.4	4,700.8	3,214.9	3,211.3	1,498.5	1,489.5	1,123.6	1,123.1	964.3	964.2
1978-79 - July (c)	2,939.6	2,937.8	1,772.3	1,770.6	4,711.8	4,708.2	3,211.4	3,215.9	1,500.4	1,492.3	1,121.7	1,123.5	961.7	963.7
August	2,935.7	2,939.5	1,772.0	1,772.0	4,707.7	4,711.5	3,208.1	3,215.9	1,499.6	1,495.b	1,119.4	1,121.4	959.8	963.9
September (c)	2,934.9	2,941.4	1,774.5	1,772.1	4,709.4	4,713.5	3,210.9	3,214.8	1,498.5	1,498.7	1,120.2	1,120.3	961.9	964.4
October	2,936.6	2,942.9	1,783.3	1,777.2	4,719.9	4,720.1	3,220.9	3,218.1	1,499.0	1,502.0	1,126.7	1,124.9	967.4	965.8
November	2,948.2	2,952.2	1,794.8	1,785.0	4,743.0	4,737.2	3,240.8	3,229.9	1,502.2	1,507.3	1,121.9	1,129.6	975.8	968.4

(a) The estimates contained in this table are based on benchmarks established by analysing data from the 1971 population census and other relevant sources. Employees in agriculture and private domestic service, and defence forces are excluded. (b) For details of the methods used see *Seasonally Adjusted indicators, 1978* (1308.0). (c) Affected by industrial dispute.

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